

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

IJIMA et al

Atty. Ref.: **160-408**

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

Filed: **February 25, 2004**

Examiner:

For: **HEAT TREATMENT APPARATUS, HEAT TREATMENT
METHOD, MEDIUM ON WHICH HEAT TREATMENT
PROGRAM IS RECORDED, AND STEEL PRODUCT**

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February 25, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed.

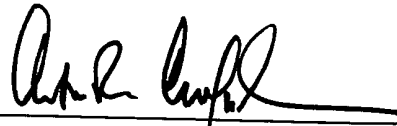
Japanese reference 9-170021 is referred to at page 3, line 12 of the instant application specification.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



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